

E85 Fact Sheet

Why is ethanol beneficial?

Ethanol is a clean burning, high octane fuel that is derived from renewable sources. It is a grain alcohol produced from crops such as corn. Ethanol is produced in the United States and thus reduces our demand on foreign sources of energy.

It decreases the harmful emissions found in gasoline. Ethanol also increases the fuels octane rating. The higher the rating the cleaner the fuel is.

What is E85?

E85 is an alternative fuel for use in flexible fuel vehicles. (FFV) It is a blend consisting of 85% ethanol and 15% unleaded gasoline. It has an octane rating of 105.

What is a Flex Fuel Vehicle and what vehicles are considered flex-fuel?

A flex-fuel vehicle has the capability to run off of regular unleaded gasoline, ethanol up to an 85% blend or a combination of both.

The National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition (NEVC) maintains a current listing of the vehicles that are considered flex-fuel. You can find this information by visiting www.e85fuel.com/e85101/flexfuelvehicles.php.

Note: If you are not certain if your vehicle is a FFV, please consult your automobile manufacturer. Please read the NEVC's section on how to read a vehicle's identification number (VIN).

Does unleaded fuel currently contain some blend of ethanol and how do I find out?

Yes. E10 which is 10% ethanol and 90% unleaded gasoline. It is approved for use in any make or model of vehicle sold in the U.S. Due to its characteristics of high performance and clean-burning, many automakers recommend its usage.

Indiana does not have labeling laws therefore gas stations are not required to label if they are using E10 or not.

What are the current production levels of ethanol and number of facilities in the United States?

- In 2003, the U.S. produced 590 million gallons
- In 2004, the U.S. produced 3.4 billion gallons
- In 2005, the U.S. produced greater than 4 billion gallons

- There are currently 97 ethanol production facilities in the U.S.
- There are currently 31 ethanol production facilities under construction
- There are dozens more in various planning stages

**Figures provided by the American Coalition for Ethanol*

www.in.gov/energy/research/factsheets.html

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What is MTBE?

MTBE stands for methyl tertiary butyl ether. It is a gasoline additive that has now been found to contaminate ground water supplies. Ethanol is now being used to take the place of MTBE due to its clean and safe characteristics that reduce harmful emissions and is derived from renewable resources.

Is E85 less expensive than unleaded gasoline?

In the short run, yes, E85 is either comparable to or a few cents more expensive than unleaded gasoline. However, in the long run it is predicted that E85 will cost less than unleaded gasoline due to supply and demand.

Currently the demand for E85 exceeds the supply. As Indiana brings more production facilities on-line we predict that a downward trend in its price to the consumers will be seen. Currently there are 4 ethanol production facilities being built in Indiana.

Where can I find E85?

The Office of Energy and Defense in conjunction with the Indiana State Department of Agriculture continually updates its listing of E85 filling stations in Indiana. For the most current listings please visit OED's site located at <http://www.in.gov/energy/pumpmap/> to find the nearest E85 pump in your area.

Is it feasible to convert the engines in non-flex fuel vehicles?

No, it is possible but not recommended. Currently there are no after market parts or conversion techniques certified by the Environmental Protection Agency. (EPA) Technically converting a vehicle to operate on another form of fuel, when it was designed to operate on only unleaded gasoline, is not legal.

There are several parts in regular unleaded gasoline burning engines that would need to be converted including the fuel-injector, air-fuel ratio, material composition of fuel lines, tanks and pumps amongst numerous others.

Where can I find additional information?

A myriad of websites exist to provide information about E85. The Office of Energy and Defense Development in conjunction with the Indiana State Department is working on an aggressive campaign to bring more facilities and greater public access to these fuels in Indiana.

Office of Energy and Defense Development

www.energy.in.gov

Indiana State Department of Agriculture

www.in.gov/isda

National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition

<http://www.e85fuel.com/index.php>

American Coalition for Ethanol

<http://www.ethanol.org/>

Clean Fuel USA

<http://www.cleanfuelusa.com/>

National Clean Cities, Inc.

<http://www.nationalcleancities.org/>

Central Indiana Clean Cities Alliance

<http://www.cicca.org/>

South Shore Clean Cities

<http://www.southshorecleancities.org/>

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